Archant

IPSO Annual Report

Period covered: September 2014 – December 2014

Factual Information about the Regulated Entity

Archant publishes 47 regulated newspapers, 77 magazines, 223 websites, 142 apps and almost 1,000 further e-editions.

Please see the attached document for a breakdown of published newspaper and magazine titles and associated websites (Excel document Archant Published Titles). Circulation figures for these titles are available to the regulator upon request.

The apps are, in the main, Archant newspaper and magazine brand extensions or produced on behalf of clients. The e-editions are both related to the news and magazine brands as well as one-off publications. A full list of these publications is available to the regulator upon request

Responsible Person

The Regulated Entity's responsible person is Tim Williams, managing editor, Archant Norfolk

Overview

Archant is a privately owned media company serving geographical and specialist interest communities across a wide range of media. It employs about 1,600 staff.

It is the fifth largest regional newspaper publisher in the UK with titles in East Anglia, London, Kent and the South West, publishing 1.6 million copies a week in print and reaching six million readers [a month] online. Its portfolio includes the Eastern Daily Press in Norfolk, the East Anglian Daily Times in Suffolk and the Ham & High in London.

Archant is the largest publisher of regional and local lifestyle magazines and associated digital media in the UK. It also owns a range of specialist magazine titles circulating mainly in the UK and USA. Its portfolio of magazine titles reaches an average of more than three million readers every month across the UK.

Archant has a broad portfolio of digital media assets and marketing services supporting its more traditional media. In 2013 the group won a licence to broadcast television to the city of Norwich. The service, Mustard TV, has been broadcasting on Freeview channel 8 since March 2014. It is also a prolific publisher of mobile Apps on the Apple and Android platforms in the UK.

The group, which was founded in 1845, has its roots in Norwich where most of its back office functions are located and has frontline staff based in the communities that it serves across the UK.

Internal Guides

The regulated entity had no internal guides or manuals for journalists in use in 2014.

Compliance Procedures

How the Regulated Entity deals with:

Pre-publication guidance under regulation 4.5

Where necessary, editors and journalists seek advice from IPSO in advance of publishing articles to consider matters of compliance with the Editors' Code. This advice is then considered by senior Archant editorial staff and with reference to the public interest when refining and publishing any articles.

Verification of stories

Journalists and editors take all appropriate steps to confirm stories.

Compliance with the Editors' Code

Copies of the Editors' Code are supplied to all Archant journalists who are contractually bound to abide by its guidelines.

Additionally, a copy of the Editors' Code is published on the Archant intranet/shared drive.

Where the Regulator finds against a publication in the course of assessing a complaint, the publication complies with the findings and any remedial action required.

Editorial Complaints, Determined under Regulation 19

Archant has a standard complaints procedure for the public across all publications which is published on the website of each title. Members of the public can lodge an editorial complaint under this procedure by following the steps online or by submitting a complaint in writing to a named individual or to the address of the publication.

Complaints received in line with the published procedure, or referred from IPSO, are logged on a complaints record and then assessed by a senior editor, who will seek to resolve the matter with the complainant. Complaints that fall outside the procedure, i.e. are not editorial complaints, are logged and referred to the relevant department/person.

Where the Regulator finds against a publication when determining a complaint under Regulation 19, the publication complies with the findings and any remedial action required by the Regulator.

Training of Staff

When required, Archant arranges staff training sessions to update staff on regulatory changes. New joiners are supplied with a copy of the Editors' Code.

Archant also organises and delivers regular legal and ethical training sessions for relevant editorial staff.

All relevant Archant editorial staff will also be undergoing annual e-training to cover the Editors' Code and update on IPSO requirements. Archant has signed a contract with the Press Association to commence training in the fourth quarter of 2015.

Adverse Adjudications

There were no adverse adjudications against Archant between September 2014 and December 2014.

SIGNED: Tim Williams

On behalf of Archant

Submitted to IPSO: 11/09/2015